

I, R. G. Werner, do hereby certify that I am a Publisher of the East Dubuque Register, a secular public newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in the City of East Dubuque, Jo Daviess County, Illinois, that the notice, a true copy of which is hereto annexed, was published in said newspaper once in each issue for 2 weeks successively; that the date of the first paper containing said notice was the 29 day of Oct. A.D. 19 93, and the date of the last paper containing the same was the 5 day of Nov. A.D. 19 93, and do further certify that the said newspaper was published, printed and regularly issued more than six months prior to the first publication of the notice annexed.

Dated at East Dubuque, Illinois, November 5,

A.D. 19 93:

PRINTER'S FEE, \$ 174.00

Robert C. Werner
Publisher East Dubuque Register.

Public Notice

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

U.S. RF-20

PUBLIC INFORMATION

OPEN HOUSE

FOR

THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PROPOSED FOUR-LANE HIGHWAY CORRIDOR EXTENDING FROM THE U.S. ROUTE 20/ILLINOIS ROUTE 64 INTERSECTION NORTH OF GALENA TO THE U.S. ROUTE 20/ILLINOIS ROUTE 64 INTERSECTION WEST OF THE U.S. ROUTE 20/ILLINOIS ROAD INTERSECTION WEST OF THE AIRPORT IN STEPHENSON COUNTY.

DATES AND LOCATIONS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1993

4:00 PM TO 9:00 PM

LUNA-WINSLOW JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

317 FRANKLIN STREET, IN THE VILLAGE OF LUNA

AND

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1993

4:00 PM TO 9:00 PM

GALENA HIGH SCHOOL

1206 FRANKLIN STREET, IN THE CITY OF GALENA

PURPOSE:

- VIEW INTRODUCTORY SLIDE SHOW
- VIEW GRAPHIC DISPLAYS ON HIGHWAY BUILD
- OBTAIN PUBLIC COMMENTS AND INPUT
- ANSWER QUESTIONS

Individuals may attend either of these identical meetings at any time during the open house hour. The slide show will be repeated throughout the evening. Other displays and discussions will be on an informal basis. This meeting is accessible to disabled individuals. Persons planning to attend this meeting who will need a sign language interpreter, or other similar accommodations should notify, either by telephone or letter, Mr. Ryan Hippen five days prior to the meeting at the Illinois Department of Transportation, 819 Depot Avenue, Dixon, IL, 61021, or 815/224-5433, so that reasonable accommodations can be made.

(D-43-44-C)

FILE

CERTIFICATE OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF ILLINOIS, }
County of Jo Daviess, } ss.

We do hereby certify that we are the publishers of the North Western Gazette, a secular weekly newspaper regularly published in the City of Galena, County of Jo Daviess and State of Illinois, for more than six months prior to the first publication of attached notice, and of general circulation in said county of Jo Daviess, State of Illinois, that the affixed Public Information Open House (US RF-20) notice has been published for two successive week/s in said newspaper, the first insertion being on the 28th day of October A.D., 19 93, and the last on the 4th day of November A.D., 19 93 for which we charge \$ 100.00.

Sarah Newton
Business Manager.

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**IDOT INFORMATION OPEN HOUSE SESSIONS SET
ON NEW U.S. ROUTE 20 PRELIMINARY ALIGNMENTS**

DIXON, IL -- September 2, 1994 -- The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) will hold two identical public informational open house sessions in September so that residents of Jo Daviess and Stephenson Counties can review preliminary alignment proposals for a new four-lane U.S. Route 20 freeway, *Glacier Shadow Pass*, according to District Engineer William D. Ost.

The first open house will be held September 20, 1994, from 4-9 p.m. at Highland Community College, 2998 W. Pearl City Road, Freeport, in the Student/Conference Center (Building H, near parking lot A). The second open house will be held September 21, 1994, from 4-9 p.m. in the Galena Middle School, 1230 Franklin Street, Galena, Illinois. Individuals may attend the sessions anytime during the open hours.

At the open house sessions a slide show will be presented on how Work Groups are making decisions on freeway impact and how citizens can become involved in the three-and-one-half year study project. Local residents will learn how to join Work Groups. "We want everyone to become involved so that they can tell us early-on what we need to be looking at in studying freeway locations," Ost said.

Maps will be on display showing IDOT's preliminary alignment proposals that were presented to U.S. Route 20 Work Groups in July. Agriculture, Economic Development, Environment, Government and Tourism Work Group members have been examining the alignments and making suggestions regarding specific placement of a freeway.

As originally proposed, the alignments by-pass Galena on the northeast side, then proceed either through Long Hollow or Irish Hollow to a point east of Elizabeth and then closely follow existing Route 20 to the north between Stockton and Freeport. IDOT is proposing alignments located close to the existing Route 20 roadway in order to serve local population centers.

The preliminary alignments were placed by IDOT's consultant, Louis Berger and Assoc., Inc. of IL, considering farm field lines and/or property lines, the location of farmhouses and outbuildings, visual corridor impact, possible interchange locations and preliminary wetlands -- "to avoid hot spots for major impacts that we know about now," Ost said.

However, IDOT is looking to the Work Groups and the public to help refine what Ost has called "not a fixed line but a flexible rubber band. We have been looking at a wide study corridor for the past year. Now, we want everyone's input on where the highway should be placed within that corridor or where the corridor should be modified based on impacts."

IDOT staff and its consultants will be available to answer questions concerning the preliminary alignments as well as recommendations received from Work Groups. Over the summer Agriculture Work Group members have talked with some 70 landowners along the alignments and found that access to severed parcels, safety on the old road, tile drain disruption and loss of prime farmland are primary concerns.

At a recent U.S. Route 20 Advisory Council meeting, it was reported also that Government Work Group members and IDOT have held meetings with local officials this summer in the communities along the alignments to discuss interchange placement. Economic Development Work Group members have conducted a study of by-pass impacts and have found that "by-passes do not kill towns," according to Chair Tom Werner. "Communities that prepare for it are far less likely to experience an economic decline."

Environment Work Group members have been studying environmental impacts and examining the potential for upgrading U. S. Route 20 in lieu of building a separate four-lane freeway. IDOT will be examining this option, according to Ost. And the Tourism Work Group has found that negative concerns of a freeway include impacts on scenery, increasing truck traffic, substandard development at interchanges and overcrowding. Positive impacts noted were by-passes at Galena and Elizabeth which would help alleviate traffic in these communities.

In general the Advisory Council, made up of Work Group representatives, indicated they will continue to study the alignments in more detail as locations are further refined and details are further developed, and will examine natural resource inventories and technical studies being prepared by IDOT's consultants before drawing final conclusions on freeway location.

The highway study was prompted by past State of Illinois research showing increasing traffic volumes and accidents on the existing 50-mile stretch of two-lane highway as well as potential economic development and local access needs identified by community residents and public officials. Traffic volumes presently show warrants for a four-lane highway, Ost said.

Information distribution sites for those interested in the project currently include libraries in Galena, Freeport, Stockton and Elizabeth and kiosks located in the post offices at Galena, Lena and Warren and the village hall in Freeport.

A citizen's guide to the U.S. Route 20 project study and the public involvement process as well as a slide show are available from IDOT by calling a toll-free number, 1/800-837-RT20.

NEWS RELEASE

**FOR RELEASE JUNE 2, 1993
CONTACT: SUE LAUE
(708) 673-3804**

IDOT TO BEGIN PLANNING STUDIES FOR A NEW U.S. RT. 20

DIXON, IL -- June 1, 1993 -- The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is beginning a three-and-one-half-year engineering and environmental study for the construction of a new four-lane highway, U.S. Route 20, between Freeport and Galena, according to William D. Ost, district engineer.

An initial public meeting to outline the study will be held June 17, 1993, at 7 p.m. in the Stockton High School Gym, Stockton. Residents of Stephenson and JoDaviess Counties who are interested in or affected by the project are being sought for work groups that will explore issues evolving from the construction of a new highway in northwestern Illinois.

Work groups will meet periodically to address local community issues such as agriculture, economic development, environment, government and tourism on an umbrella advisory council that will make recommendations regarding the highway project to IDOT.

In addition, IDOT has contracted with a team of consultants led by Louis Berger and Associates, Inc., Illinois, to carry out technical studies and to prepare an engineering location design report and an environmental impact statement. Johnson, Depp & Quisenberry Engineers, Inc., consultants based in Springfield will be in charge of public involvement activities. American Surveying Consultants of Dixon will conduct field surveys associated with the project.

Past state of Illinois studies showing increasing traffic volumes and accidents on the existing 50-mile stretch of two-lane highway as well as potential economic development needs identified by local residents and public officials have prompted the study, Ost said. The exact location of the new highway will be determined through discussions with interested and affected individuals, groups and government agencies.

To further gauge public interests and concerns regarding an access controlled highway, consultants are carrying out a telephone survey of residents in JoDaviess and Stephenson counties. Results will be published in mid-summer. In the fall another public information meeting will be held to detail progress on the engineering location design study and the environmental impact statement process.

A number of information distribution sites will be established in the region that will contain documents for the public on work group activities as well as project progress. A citizen's guide to project development and the public involvement process will be available in the fall as well. And a toll-free telephone 800-number will be published for the public to seek information about the project and to speak with project personnel.